1:Opler E-5 (1931-1937)1941
(ca. 1870) NT8 Eastern Apache NT8
Chiricahua

593 No less important in determining a wife's social and domestic
434 position is her economic usefulness. An industrious woman con-
554 tributes so significantly to the family resources that the indis-
pensable part she plays cannot be minimized by the men. More-
over, much of the wealth she creates belongs to her. Consequent-
ly, wives are well aware of their rights and do not accept abuse
supinely:

> Not long ago this man started beating up his wife. She just took him and rolled him under the bed. You know he is paralyzed on one side and is pretty near helpless when you get him like that. It was a low bed, and he got stuck there. He stayed there until another fellow came along and let him out. He was there calling to his wife to get him out.

593 An amusing anecdote better illustrates the usual independence
554 of wives in their own homes:

> Geronimo was very absent-minded. He would be looking for his hat and he would have it on his head.
>
> One time when we were over to visit him, he was making a bow with a big knife. Pretty soon he began asking his wife where his knife was. All the time he had it in his hand, but we didn't let on. So there he was, scolding his wife and telling her to look for it for him. He was short and stout and pretty old by then, so he wasn't active any more. That's why he wanted his wife to get it for him. But she wouldn't look. She said, "You're old enough to look for your own knife."
>
> Geronimo got pretty angry. "Boys, you see how she is!" he said. "I advise you not to get married." Finally he saw the knife in his hand. "Why, I'm nothing but a fool!" he said.

593 Important in the stabilization of many marriages are the re-
spect and affection that grow through the years as a result of
shared experiences. An elderly informant told of the long period
of domestic happiness which he and his wife had enjoyed. Be-
sides being a loyal and helpful mate, she had saved his life. Once
[648] when Mexican villagers were overhospitable to a group of Chiri-
cahua, she suspected duplicity and accepted none of the food and
drink offered. As she had feared, just as soon as her people were
properly befuddled, a massacre began. But she remained clear-
headed and managed to get her helpless husband to a hiding-
place. The moral force that this exceptional woman exercised
over her mate is generally recognized. More than once it was